

**MUSIC  
APPRECIATION  
MONTH**



**APRIL 2012**

## **Jazz: A Timeline of Tradition in the U.S.** **By Amanda D. Harvey**



Jazz has evolved from its origins in the late 19th and early 20th century into a global musical favorite, and is now recognized through International Jazz Day on April 30th, beginning this year. Modern Jazz is illustrative of the rich tapestry of U.S. Culture, and has been a favorite for overseas cultural engagement for decades. The musical style also has had great influence in every corner of the globe, symbolizes freedom and democracy, and is an effective tool for communicating across cultural, gender, language, and generational lines.

The roots of Jazz can be traced to the American South, where the Atlantic slave trade appropriated African music and culture along with the people who it displaced. Throughout the 19th Century, American slaves began using European instruments, including the violin, and often parodied European music and dance styles at their own parties. Unique styles arose from combining European harmonization with syncopation (off-beat rhythms), and also from adapting European hymnals into soulful spirituals. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Ragtime developed from the use of piano and banjo in entertainment venues such as bars, brothels, and clubs by former slaves in post-abolition America. Around the same time, WC Handy was publishing the Memphis Blues and St. Louis Blues, which became Jazz standards.

Dixieland music from New Orleans had an undeniable influence on the early years of Jazz, as well, as marching bands played their brass, reeds, and drums, especially at lavish Dixieland funerals. These musical styles began migrating to northeastern and western U.S. as small bands consisting of self-taught and well-educated African-American musicians from Afro-Creole funeral bands began playing in vaudeville acts around the country. These musicians included Bessie Smith and Jelly-Roll Morton, who published the first Jazz arrangement in print form in 1915, and The Original Dixieland Jazz Band, which recorded the first released Jazz record in 1917.

The 1920s and 30s are known as "The Jazz Age" in the U.S., when the musical style grew up in Speakeasies

across the U.S. during prohibition. It was the roaring 20s, when alcohol was illicit, that the public flocked to these closed-door venues for their vices. This was the time when Jazz flourished, and musicians such as Duke Ellington, The Red Hot Peppers, Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, and Fletch Henderson left their imprints on the genre. Swing, in the styling of "big band" music, took off in the early 30s, launching careers such as that of Ella Fitzgerald, the "First lady of Song." Also in the 30s, Jazz was coming into its own in Europe, with the Quintette du Hot Club de France creating a distinctive sound using guitar and bass as their rhythm section.

During the 40s and 50s, and beyond, Jazz styles began branching out into various trends, including experimental jazz, punk jazz, bebop, post-bop, free jazz, soul jazz, fusion, Latin jazz, modal jazz, and M-Base, to name a few. Bebop, in particular, arose in the 1940s as an artistic style of jazz that was technically challenging with its fast pace and dissonant flattened fifth interval. The tree of jazz music continues to branch out even now, with M-Base, which is an expression of experiences through music that uses improvisation and structure as two of its main ingredients. Practitioners of M-Base argue that it is not a musical style, but is a way of thinking about creating music.

Since 2002, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History has led the Jazz Appreciation Month initiative, which aims to draw greater public attention globally to the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz as America's original music, a global cultural treasure. Last year, UNESCO decided that April 30th would become International Jazz Day, and would be a time to celebrate our musical heritage. Jazz festivals, small bands, big bands, and soloists can be found in all corners of the earth, and from various cultures and walks of life today, and it is a testament to the ingenuity of American musicians that this art form has become a musical standard across the globe in only a century.

### **The American Center**

C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051 Tel: 022-2672-4024  
E-mail: [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov); Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

### **H O L I D A Y S**

April 6 : Good Friday

## A WORD FROM THE CENTER

"Music makes the people come together. Music mix the bourgeoisie and the rebel." Sing it in your head like Madonna would in her song "Music," and you'll feel the rhythm of such apt words for Music Appreciation Month!

Music is a language that transcends all boundaries of race, religion, cultures, politics, languages, practically anything you can think of. At the same time, music also defines great eras. For example, the feature article discusses the birth of the great American genre of jazz and its role in the various decades in American history.

Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) is a music festival held every April in the United States. JAM was started in 2001 in honor of jazz as an original American art form. In the U.S., JAM annually pays tribute to jazz as music that is both living and historic. Schools, organizations, communities, and even governments, celebrate JAM with events ranging from free concerts to educational programs. Here at the American Center of the U.S. Consulate General, we've broadened this month's theme to include the appreciation of music in its entirety. Therefore, while you'll see resources on jazz, you'll also notice our selection of movies for April to focus on broader aspects of music. We will also have a fun music program in April. Follow us on facebook for details: <http://www.facebook.com/Mumbai.usconsulate/events>.

The beauty of music is that one can appreciate it without having the knack for playing a musical instrument. You can feel the rhythm. You can hear the beats. You can count it out. You can admire the skill of the musician who knows its universal language. We look forward to you joining us in celebrating Music Appreciation Month!

Warm regards,



Swati Patel  
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer

### Upcoming Events

**What:** "Friends of the Library" – discussion via DVC with Susan J. Schmidt, Division Councilor, ALTAFF (Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations)

**Who:** Everyone interested in libraries and book lovers!

**When:** Monday, April 9, 6:00 PM

**Where:** American Library, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai

**Why:** Celebration of National Library Week; "Friends of Libraries" is a community-based, non-profit group of

citizens that work together to support, improve and promote libraries. This discussion will provide background and advice on creating such groups in your communities to sustain existing public libraries.

**Cost:** Free! RSVP to [libref@state.gov](mailto:libref@state.gov) or call 026724024/026724231

**What:** Bombay Bassment - hip, fresh, original...an eclectic mix of artists that defines the grassroots of each and brings you a blend of hip-hop, rap, reggae, funk, drum 'n bass

**Who:** The American Center of the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, in association with Sound Curry and Bonobo invites all music fans

**When:** Thursday, April 19, 8:30 PM

**Where:** Bonobo (Kenilworth Mall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Off Linking Rd, Bandra West)

**Why:** Music Appreciation Month – Don't miss Bombay Bassment, a band which pulls off a sound that cuts through every soul.

**Cost:** None, entry is free on first-come, first-served basis.

**What:** Marsha Ivins – an American Astronaut

**Who:** Anyone interested in space programs, science & technology, and/or NASA

**When & Where:**

**MUMBAI**

Monday, April 23, 2012, 5:00 PM

Venue: Nehru Planetarium, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai-400 018

**PUNE**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 6:00 PM

Venue: Inter University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Ganeshkhind, Pune University, Campus, Pune– 411007.



**Why:** To hear about the life of an American astronaut! Ms. Ivins, a veteran of five space flights who has logged over 1,318 hours in space, was employed at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center for more than 26 years. During her career with NASA, she spent nearly 56 days in space. For a complete bio please visit: <http://www.isc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/ivins.html>

**Cost:** Free & open to the public. Limited seating, so arrive early! For more info., contact: [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov)





# Join us for **Mumbai Mondays**

## **Jazz** *in America*



*Discussion led by*  
**Joy Peters**

From the trumpet filled streets of New Orleans to the Blues-filled halls of Detroit, America's heartbeat can be felt through her music. Created from a unique blend of cultures, jazz played a part in creating harmony in some of America's most discordant times. Come listen to the birth of modern sound; a marriage of syncopated rhythms, improvised tunes and soul-filled horns. We will take an auditory journey spanning a century, circling a globe and uniting a nation as we discover the evolution of America's most beloved homegrown music.

Joy Peters began her professional career as an English teacher in Virginia, but recently joined the Foreign Service and currently works as a Vice-Consul. She has been involved with music since childhood, training as a violinist for 15 years and performing professionally in local theaters. In her spare time she enjoys photography and jewelry making.

## **April 16 at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Venue:**

U.S. Consulate General,  
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

**Free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed.**

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## NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

### Exercise Your Mind and Body at the American Library!

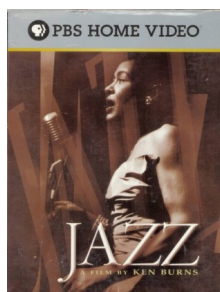
See page 6 for details.

#### April is Jazz Appreciation Month

Come into the Library to learn more about this traditional American sound!

**Amnesty Week:** In honor of National Library Week, return your overdue books to the American Library between April 9 – 14 and your fines will be waived!

### DVDs on Jazz



#### **JAZZ: A Film by Ken Burns; Jazz film project, 2000 (10 Episode)**

The story, sound, and soul of a nation come together in the most American of art forms: Jazz. Ken Burns celebrates the music's soaring achievements, from its origins in blues and ragtime through swing, bebop, and fusion. Six years in the making, this series blends 75 interviews, more than 500 pieces of music, 2,400 still photographs, and over 2,000 rare and archival film clips. This 10-part musical journey spotlights many of America's most original figures, including Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, and Miles Davis. You can learn more about the program at: <http://www.pbs.org/jazz/>



#### **Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis: Season One – c2006.**

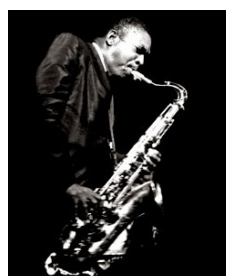
Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis bring to life America's most masterful musical art form Jazz. This jazz series features riveting conversations and stellar performances by some of today's great artists in jazz. Track Listings include: The Golden Horns; The Jazz Singers; Contemporary Jazz; The Altos; The Piano Masters; Roots: The Blues; American Songbook; Latin Jazz; The Tenors; Brazilian Jazz; The Killer Bs; NEA Jazz Masters 2006



#### **Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis: Showcase – c2006.**

This showcase is a dynamic 2-Disc CD/DVD collection of 13 performances from the series featuring the biggest stars of Jazz and presented on one of the most dazzling recordings of the decade. Legends of Jazz marks the first time in over 40 years that jazz has been the focus of a network television show bringing to life America's most masterful musical art form.

### Jazz in America: Photo gallery



Click on the link to learn about some of the great American jazz performers. - [Click Here](#)

### Entertainment Journals

The American Library is your source for the latest on American entertainment. Some of the offerings include:



#### **Rolling Stone (Frequency - 26 times a year)**

Rolling Stone portrays the nature of American musical and cultural landscape. Features articles of serious musical and political writings, describes interviews and reviews covering all aspects of the pop-rock music industry.



#### **Entertainment Weekly (Weekly)**

This magazine features the latest and interesting news articles on Hollywood celebrities. It covers films, television, music, Broadway theatre, books and popular culture of America.

E-Bulletin Editor:

**Swati Patel**

Designed by:

**Milburn Fernandes**

Admission to American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. The auditorium doors will open 30 minutes before the start of the program.



....continued from page 4



### **American Theatre (Frequency – 10 times a year)**

Published by 'Theatre Communication Group', American *Theatre* acts as the monthly forum for news, features and opinion about the American theatre. Each issue features reports on plays in print, performances, and theater season schedules in the US and abroad. It also features full-length play scripts five times per year.



### **Film Comment (Frequency - Bi-monthly)**

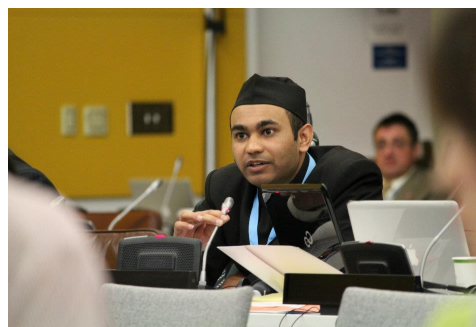
This publication by the Film Society of Lincoln Center gives excellent coverage of filmmaking in the United States and abroad. It contains feature articles, offers film criticism and history and personal writing about film as an art, as a medium, and as an element of modern life.

## **Alumni Highlights**



### **Devendra Pai**

When Devendra Pai returned to India after his Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA), he realized the vast differences between U.S. and Indian education systems and resolved to do something about it. He co-founded the Alliance of Students for Mentorship and Innovation (ASMI) to help foster students' professional growth. ASMI aims to empower students by giving them the practical tools needed to realize their professional goals in a wide range of fields. According to Devendra, most Indian students feel "that engineering, medicine, and business are the only career choices that will ensure a secure future." ASMI hopes to reveal new professional options to such students. Even after much academic recognition, candidacy for a Master's degree in Political Science, and the establishment of ASMI, Devendra still credits the NESA program in particular for what he has accomplished today.



### **Zulfi Sheth**

Zulfi Sheth, currently in the U.S. for the Community College Initiative (CCI) program, was presented the SEAL Award by Northern Virginia Community College. This award is for students who exemplify Service, Excellence, Academics, and Leadership at Northern Virginia Community College. Zulfi was also one of five CCI participants to have listened to President Obama's speech at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) on Monday, February 13, announcing a new \$8 billion "Community College to Career Fund" proposal in the context of releasing his FY-2013 budget. He had this to say: "It was a great experience of my life to see world's most influential personality so close. He is my role model and by meeting with him I have recharged my all inspirations. When I shook hands with him, he said to me, 'how are you doing?' I was stunned and speechless. I said, 'Thank you Obama for giving me the scholarship in CCIP'. I never thought in my life that I will meet Obama like this. Certainly these are the best memories of my life." The son of a refrigerator mechanic, Zulfi is committed to community development through service.



### **Namrata Jaitly**

Namrata Jaitly, an alumna of the Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA), was given the Miss Chandni Award by her college for exceptional merit in academics and commitment to co-curricular and extracurricular activities. The competitive award is a coveted recognition at Chandibhai College which Namrata attends. Namrata feels that her "....selection as a NESA UGRAD participant also worked in my favor."

**If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov).**

***You could be featured in future e-bulletins!***





**Exercise Your Mind and Body at the American Library!**

**Join the library between**

**April 2 and May 5**

**and be entered in a weekly drawing**

**for 3 free PT sessions at 5 Fitness Clubs.**

**Memberships are 25% off**

**only**

**₹300 For 1 year membership**

**₹525 For 2 years membership**



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The American Library is open to all from Monday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please come with photo-Id. No mobiles or electronic equipment of any kind are allowed in the library







# Saturday Film Screenings

# MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH

**April 7**



*Ray (II)*

2004, 152 mins

Jamie Foxx's Academy Award-winning title role performance and the timeless tunes of Ray Charles drive Taylor Hackford's acclaimed biodrama. Overcoming family tragedy and blindness due to glaucoma at the age of seven, singer/pianist Charles blends gospel, R&B, and other genres to create his unique brand of soul music, but drug abuse and womanizing threaten to derail his career and his life. Kerry Washington, Regina King, Harry Lennix also star.

**April 14**



**THE SOLOIST**

2009, 117 mins

An encounter with a homeless man (Jamie Foxx) playing a two-stringed violin on the streets of Los Angeles leads a journalist (Robert Downey, Jr.) to write about the musician, a former Julliard prodigy suffering from schizophrenia. But when Downey reaches out to help the combative Foxx, neither man is prepared for what follows. Based on a true story by L.A. Times columnist Steve Lopez, the powerful drama also stars Catherine Keener, Tom Hollander.

**April 21**



**CADILLAC RECORDS**

2008, 109 mins

In this tale of sex, violence, race, and rock and roll in 1950s Chicago, "Cadillac Records" follows the exciting but turbulent lives of some of America's musical legends, including Muddy Waters, Leonard Chess, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, Etta James and Chuck Berry.

**April 28**



**mo' better blues**

1990, 129 mins

Opens with Bleek as a child learning to play the trumpet, his friends want him to come out and play but mother insists he finish his lessons. Bleek grows into adulthood and forms his own band - The Bleek Gilliam Quartet. The story of Bleek's and Shadow's friendly rivalry on stage which spills into their professional relationship and threatens to tear apart the quartet.

Please bring a photo ID for entry. No mobiles, computers, cameras or other electronic equipment allowed.

## Venue:

U.S. Consulate General,  
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

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**Screening will start at 2:30 p.m.**